The Aluminum Situation

A Monthly Publication of
The Aluminum Association, Inc., 818 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006

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February, 1982

Annual Shipments Decline 5.4 Per Cent

Net shipments of aluminum ingot and mill products through December, 1981, at an estimated 13,429 million pounds were 5.4% less than shipments of 14,199 million pounds for 12 months of 1980.

Domestic shipments totalled 12,061 million pounds through December, 1981, representing an increase of 0.5% over the 12,006 million pounds shipped in the first 12 months of 1980.

Exports of 1,368 million pounds were down 37.6% vs. 2,193 million pounds for 12 months of 1980.

Thru December, 1980 (Preliminary)

	12 Mos. 1981	12 Mos. 1980	% Change
Mill Products	10,569	10,627	− 0.5
Ingot	2,860	3,572	−19.9
Total	13,429	14,199	− 5.4
Less Exports	−1,368	−2,193	−37.6
Domestic Total	12,061	12,006	+ 0.5

Millions of Pounds
Source: Latest month estimated by the Aluminum Association. Previous data—Bureau of the Census.

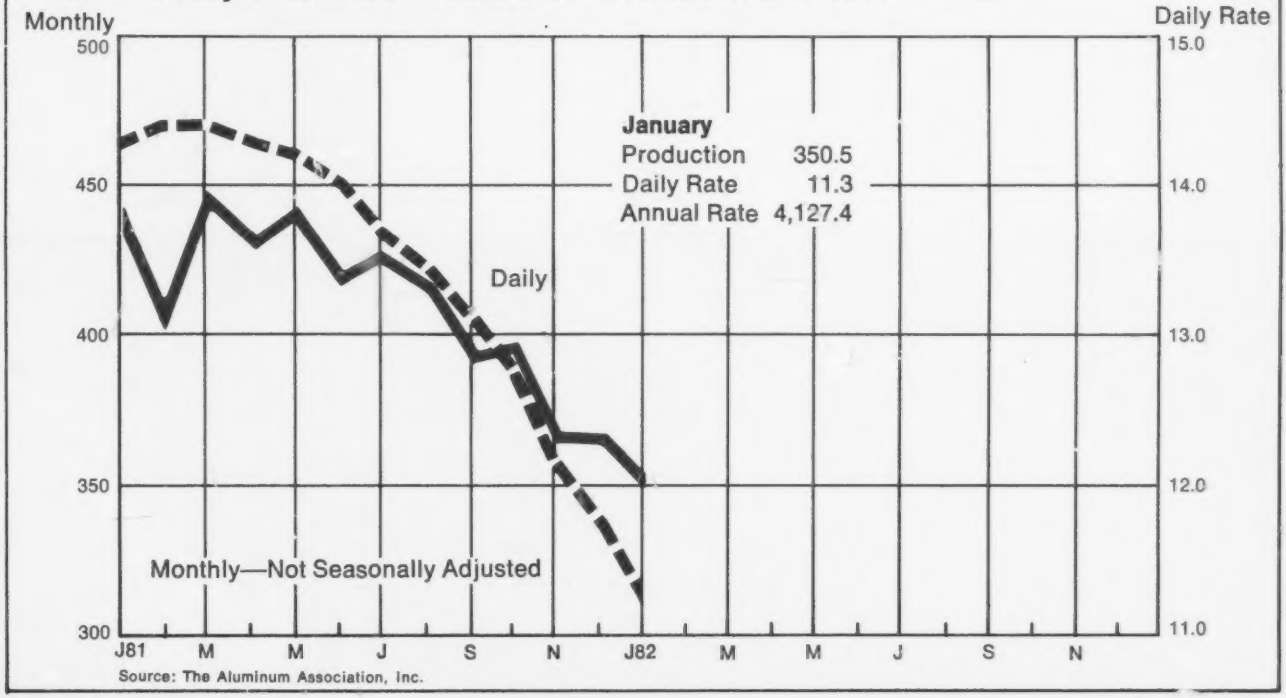
Primary Production Rate Down 21.2 Per Cent

U.S. primary aluminum production averaged 11,308 short tons daily during January, 1982, compared with an average 14,349 tons a day in January, 1981.

The annual rate of production in January, 1982 was 4,127,414 tons, compared to 5,237,467 tons in January, 1981. The December, 1981 production rate was 4,287,749 tons.

Actual production in January, 1982 was 350,548 tons. This compared with 444,826 tons in January, 1981 and 364,165 tons in December, 1981.

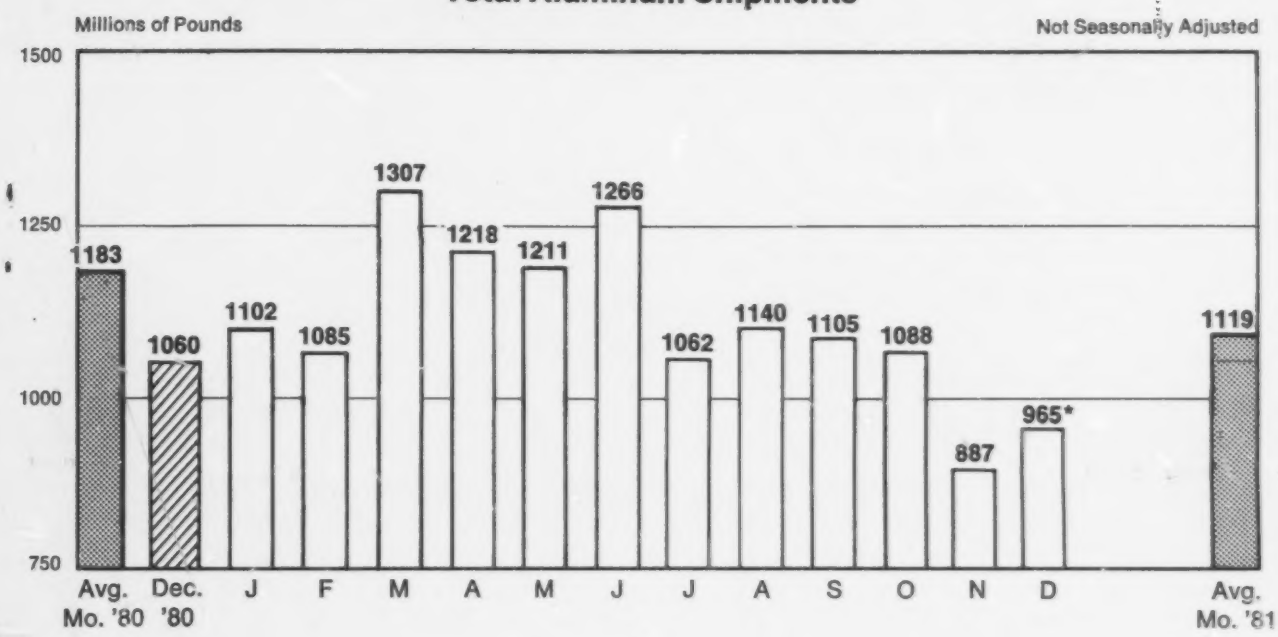
U.S. Primary Aluminum Production—Thousands of Short Tons



Source: The Aluminum Association, Inc.

Aluminum Association total industry estimates are based on information reported by members, which is aggregated by the Association and then expanded to total industry data utilizing an expansion ratio that attempts to reflect the relationship of reporters to the total industry. While the Association believes that its statistical procedures and methods are reliable, it does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the data. All data contained herein are subject to revision.

Total Aluminum Shipments



Net Shipments
(Millions of Pounds)

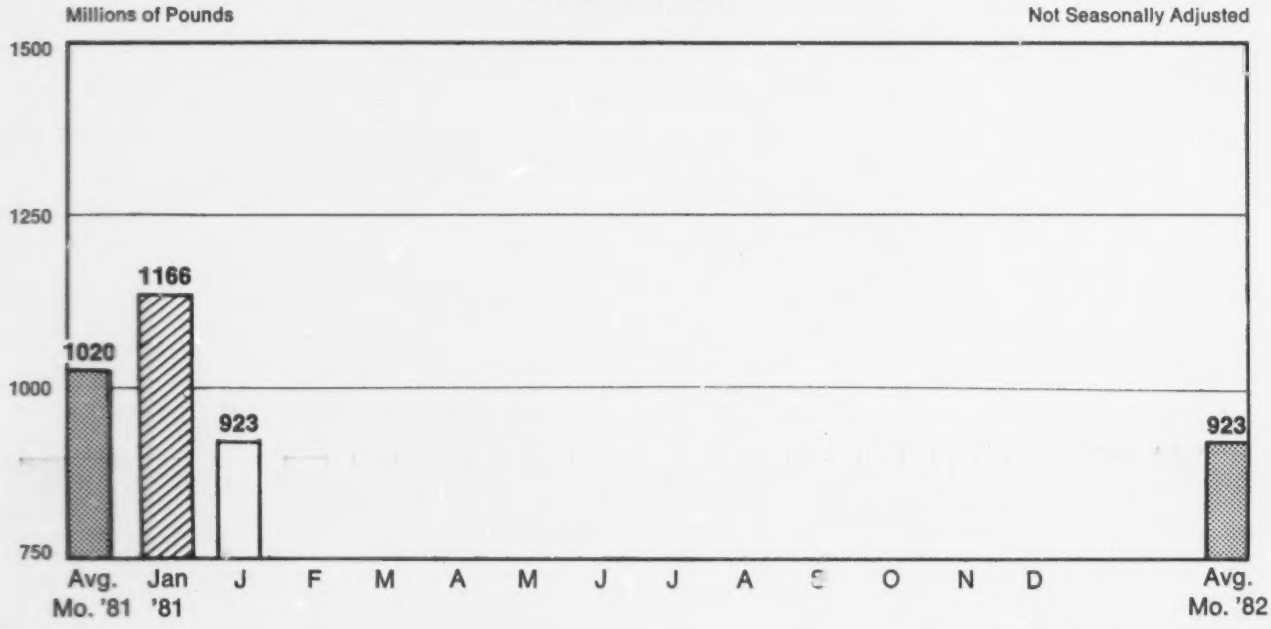
	1981 December*	1981 November	1980 December	% Change Latest Month 1981 v. 1980
Sheet & Plate	325.0	366.3	492.1	− 21.8
Foil	63.0	62.3	72.4	− 13.0
Rod, Bar & Wire	25.0	21.3	34.9	− 28.4
Electrical Conductor	57.0	52.1	60.0	− 5.0
Extruded Products	133.0	145.5	178.8	− 25.6
Welded Tube	4.0	3.2	9.8	− 59.2
Powder & Pigments	8.0	8.0	9.9	− 19.2
Forgings & Impacts	9.0	9.3	10.1	− 10.9
Net Imports of Mill Products (Total) (a)	29.3	29.7	10.0	+193.0
Total Mill Products	713.3	697.7	878.0	− 18.8
Ingot	252.0(b)	188.8	335.3	− 24.8
TOTAL INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS	965.3	886.5	1,213.3	− 20.4
Exports	(85.5)	(90.6)	(153.8)	− 44.4
TOTAL DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS	879.8	795.9	1,059.5	− 17.0

* Latest month estimated by the Aluminum Association.
Previous data—Bureau of the Census and Department of Commerce.
(a) Not included in product data above.
(b) Sufficient data not available for reliable estimate. Implicit in this item is a 10 to 25% variation.

December Net Shipments Down 20.4 Per Cent

Total December, 1981 net shipments of 965 million pounds were down an estimated 20.4% vs. December, 1980. Domestic shipments were down 17.0%.

Order Receipts



Order Receipts
(Millions of Pounds)

	1982 January	1981 December	1981 January	% Change Latest Month 1981 vs. 1980
Can Stock	248.6	241.8	248.7	—
Sheet & Plate, Other	182.7	164.7	274.1	−33.3
Foil	65.0	67.6	71.5	− 9.1
Rod, Bar & Wire	26.0	19.0	33.3	−21.9
Electrical Conductor	55.6	46.3	71.7	−22.5
Extruded Products	117.2	133.7	153.1	−24.4
Primary Ingot	20.5	27.4	38.5	−46.8
Other (Including Secondary Ingot)	117.7	167.7	139.5	−15.6
TOTAL DOMESTIC	833.3	868.2	1,030.4	−19.1
Exports	89.6	37.7	135.9	−34.1
TOTAL ALL PRODUCTS	922.9	905.9	1,166.3	−20.9

Source: The Association estimates total industry orders, based on weekly reports by members of new orders (less cancellations) received. The Association expands these data to total industry utilizing an expansion ratio that attempts to reflect the relationship of reporters to the total industry. Weekly data are available upon request.

* Latest month.
r-revised.

January Orders 20.9 Per Cent Less Than January, 1981

January order receipts at 923 million pounds were down 20.9% vs. January, 1981 orders of 1,166 million pounds. Domestic orders were down 19.1% vs. a year ago.

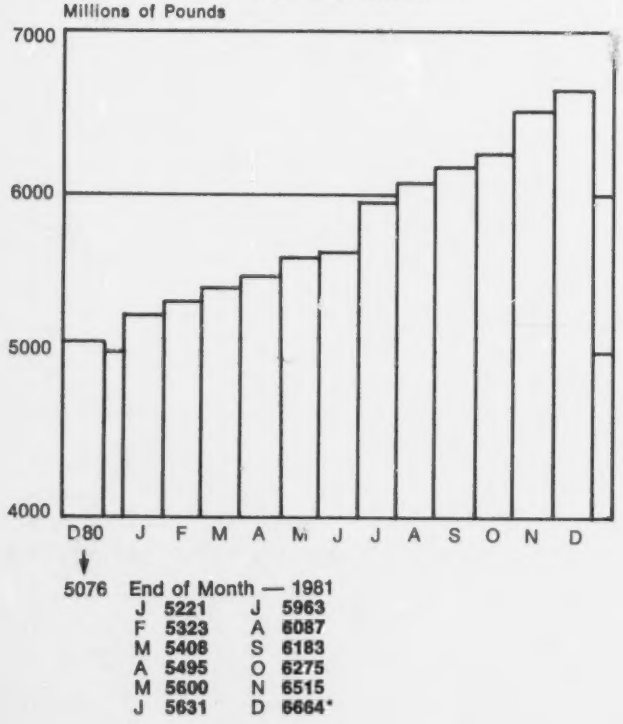
Producers Stocks Up 149 Million Pounds

Producer inventories increased an estimated 149 million pounds in December, 1981 from an estimated 6,515 million pounds in November to an estimated 6,664 million pounds.

Integrated producer stocks rose 173 million pounds. Secondary smelters' and nonintegrateds' stocks together dropped an estimated 24 million pounds.

Preliminary estimates indicate that producer inventories at the end of 1981 increased 1,588 million pounds vs. year-end 1980.

Inventories



Producers Inventories
(Millions of Pounds)

Producers	Dec. '81	Dec. '80	Dec. '81 vs. Year End '80
Integrateds	5,577	4,018	+1,559
Smelters	255	261	− 6
Nonintegrated	832	797	+ 35
TOTAL	6,664	5,076	+1,588

* Latest month estimated by Aluminum Association. Previous data—Bureau of the Census. Inventories include ingot, mill products and scrap.
(a) Estimated. Census will revise published data.

Imports and Exports
(Millions of Pounds)

		1981 December	1981 November	1980 December	% Change Latest Month 1981 v. 1980
Imports	Mill Products	30.6	31.0	11.6	+163.8
	Ingot	98.7	83.1	156.8	− 37.1
	TOTAL	129.3	114.1	168.4	− 23.2
	Scrap (+ dross)	8.7	17.2	9.8	− 11.2
Exports	Mill Products	38.3	44.5	61.7	− 37.9
	Ingot	49.2	46.1	92.1	− 46.6
	TOTAL	87.5	90.6	153.8	− 43.1
	Scrap	36.4	42.7	44.9	− 18.9
Net Imports		+14.1	(2.0)	(20.5)	+168.8

Source: Department of Commerce, Industry Trade Administration and Bureau of the Census. Excludes backed foil.